जबरन पुलिस उठाकर कहां ले गई है इसका पता नहीं है। मैं आपके माध्यम से रेल मंत्री जी का ध्यान ऐसे ट्रेंड युवकों के मामले में दिलाना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने जो 28 जुलाई को वायदा किया कि एप्रेंटिसशिप में जो ट्रेंड युवक है उनको रोजगार दिया जाए, उनकी नौकरी पक्की की जाए; तथा जो युवक आमरण अनशन पर बैठे है उनसे कम से कम वार्ता तो करनी चाहिए वहां के पदाधिकारियों को। वह पदाधिकारी वार्ता करने को भी तैयार नहीं है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम चाहते है कि आपके माध्यम से रेल मंत्री जी को निर्देश जाना चाहिए जिससे तुरन्त कार्रवाई हो। आपने मुझे इस पर बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Closure of Konkan Railway

PROF. RAM KAPSE (Maharashtra): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the closure of the Konan Railway since 3rd July 1997.

Sir, the Konkan Railway was started with the help of different States; all of them contributed to the Konkan Railway. Now the position is that when the rains started, during the first rain itself, a section of the Konkan Railway between Mumbai and Sawantwadi had to be closed. Generally it is expected that it might be closed for a day or two, which we can understand, but service on this section of the railway came to a halt since 3rd July, and it is expected that at least for the next one month the Konkan Railway will not operate between Mumbai and Swantwadi. Next year we are expecting that we will have a full coastline railway in the form of the Konkan Railway, but this year itself there is a closure for almost two months. It is hoped that the railway would come forward and resume services at the earliest.

Sir, this closure is because of landslides and heaps of soil which are covering the track. As it is, the Konkan area is an altogether different type of area. A particular kind of stone, *jhamba* by name, is used throughout Konkan, and the landslides are because of the special nature of that stone. Therefore, this problem is envisaged by everybody.

The Konkan Railway is going to play an important role in the development of this coastal region, and it must be ensured, in the interest of safety of passengers, that such things would never again happen. Luckily, nobody was hurt during the landslides, but it can happen any time. We are concerned about the safety of the commuters and at the same time, transport efficiency also. Every day, nearly 1,000 people commute between Swantwadi and Bombay. Now this traffic is not there and so there is a loss for the Konkan Railway. A lot of interest is being paid on the capital loan of the railway. So, capital loss, transport efficiency loss and, at the same time, safety of the passengers during this period must be taken into account. So, this must be taken into account. The Railway Authorities should try to clear the hurdles in the running of the Railway at the earliest with the help of the Maharashtra Government. These two Governments have to work together on this matter.

Therefore, I urge upon the Railway Minister to make a statement in the House about the closure of the Konkan Railway, the loss incurred by the Railways and the measures to avoid repetition of such incidents in future. I expect that the hon. Vice-Chairman will direct the Minister who is present here to do this. He is an ex-Railway Minister. At least the new Railway Minister should come out with a statement on the closure, the loss and how they will avoid its repetition.

I request the hon. Minister to convey my feelings to the Railway Minister. He should give at least some reply in the matter today.

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा, उसकी सूचना रेल मंत्रालय को दे दी जाएगी।